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Message Text

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70
ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 1924
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY IMMEDIATE NIACT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 0595

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PA
SUBJECT: MEXICO MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

REF: ASUNCION 0569

1. FOREIGN MINISTER SAPENA PASTOR AND I HAVE JUST HELD OUR FINAL DISCUSSION ON THE MEXICO MEETING, PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FEB 15 AND AFTER HE HAD RECEIVED HIS FINAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT STROESSNER. HE HANDED ME A REPLY TO SECRETARY'S FEB 6 LETTER, WHICH WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY SEPTEL.

2. IN THE PRESENCE OF UNDER SECRETARIES ALBERTO NOGUES AND JULIO CESAR SCHUPP (ECONOMIC AFFAIRS) WHO WILL ACCMPANY THE MINISTER, WE REVIEWED ONCE AGAIN THE SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE MEETING FORMAT. WE ALSO WENT OVER THE LIST OF AGENDA ITEMS AND THE TWO ADDITIONAL ITEMS PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARY (ENERGY AND THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION).

3. SAPENA PASTOR CONFIRMED HIS PREVIOUS AGREEMENT AS TO THE USG FORMAT PREFERENCE FOR BOTH OPENING AND SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS. HE NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE
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TO DIALOGUE WITH THE SECRETARY IF THE CLOSED MEETING

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WERE TAKEN UP WITH SET SPEECHES FROM VARIOUS LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS.

4. FROM SOME OF THE GIVE-AND-TAKE BETWEEN SAPENA PASTOR AND HIS TWO SENIOR AIDES, IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE MEXICAN PROPOSAL FOR ORGANIZATION OF WORKING GROUPS FOR EACH AGENDA ITEM WITH SPOKESMEN (PARAGUAY TO BE GROUPED WITH VENEZUELA, EL SALVADOR, AND GUATEMALA FOR AGENDA ITEM I) WHO WOULD RESPOND TO AGENDA ITEMS FOLLOWING THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH HAD BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION WITHIN THE GOP. HOWEVER, AS THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND I REVIEWED THE PROS AND CONS OF THE MATTER, HE EMPHATICALLY DISCARDED CONSIDERATION OF THE MEXICAN PROPOSAL AND REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED HIS FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE USG CONCEPT OF A FREE FLOW OF DISCUSSION WITHOUT SET SPEECHES.

5. REVIEWING IN DETAIL THE EIGHT AGENDA ITEMS, SAPENA PASTOR SAID THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE ITEM FOR PARAGUAY IS THE TOPIC COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT BETWEEN THE GESTATION OF THE MEETING LAST OCTOBER AND ITS REALIZATION, WORLD CIRCUMSTANCES HAD CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY: NAMELY THE EMERGENCE OF THE PETROLEUM AND ENERGY PROBLEMS, BRINGING THE CLOSELY RELATED PROBLEMS OF PRICE INCREASES, INFLATION, AND VERY GRAVE PROBLEMS OF OIL IMPORTING LDC'S. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, THE GOP CONSIDERS THE MEXICO MEETING AS AN EXTREMELY CONSTRUCTIVE OPPORTUNITY, WHERE LATIN AMERICA TOGETHER WITH (AS DISTINCT FROM OPPOSED TO OR AGAINST) THE UNITED STATES CAN JOINTLY SEEK SOLUTIONS WHICH MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALSO THE SHARPLY INCREASED EARNINGS OF VENEZUELA AND ECUADAOR.

6. COMMENT: IF MY CONVERSATION WITH SAPENA PASTOR IS ANY INDICATION, THE IMPACT OF THE HIGH PETROLEUM PRICES ON DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (ITEM I) WILL BE RAISED WITH GREAT EMPHASIS IN THE GENERAL DISCUSSION FOLLOWING THE SECRETARY'S SECOND DAY OPENING SPEECH. IT WOULD BE ANTICLIMATIC FOR HIM TO TALK ABOUT ENERGY AFTER
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THE DISCUSSION OF THE EIGHT AGENDA ITEMS HAS BEEN COMPLETED. I RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THAT SECRETARY ADD THE ENERGY PROBLEM TO HIS SECOND DAY OPENING SPEECH IN WHICH HE PLANS TO COVER THE ENTIRE LA AGENDA, LEAVING THE REVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AS A SUITABLE ITEM TO FINISH THE CLOSED SESSIONS ON A HIGH NOTE.
LANDAU

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